

Edison Plant Strikes Averted; Ford Labor Row Reports Differ

New Bethlehem Walkout Threatened; Aluminum Workers Still Idle

By the Associated Press.

The threat of a strike at seven New Jersey and Pennsylvania plants of Thomas A. Edison, Inc., was cleared away today by union acceptance of a new contract.

The agreement calls for a 5 per cent wage increase and a modified preferential shop. Niel Brant, international representative of the C. I. O.-United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, estimated it would increase the annual wages of 2,000 workers by about \$225,000.

The Edison Co. operates six plants in the Newark area and one at Hellertown, Pa. The company makes electrical equipment and has about \$200,000 worth of defense orders.

Ford Election Plan Rushed. Plans were being speeded for a hearing on the C. I. O.-United Automobile Workers' petition for a collective bargaining election at two Ford Motor Co. plants in the Detroit area, following conflicting reports of a labor disturbance at the Ford Rolling Mills and open-hearth department yesterday. Tentative plans call for a hearing on the petition March 24. It would involve some 55,000 workers at Ford's Highland Park and Rouge plants.

A C. I. O.-U. A. W. spokesman declared about 3,000 employees stopped work briefly yesterday demanding reinstatement of eight union men "fired for union activity." He said they were rehired and work then was resumed. But Harry Bennett, Ford personnel chief, denied that work had been halted, said there only had been "a little excitement" for a few minutes until I got there.

Bethlehem Row Flares Again. At Buffalo a Labor Department "trouble shooter" meets today with C. I. O. leaders and management representatives in an effort to settle a dispute which threatens a second strike at Bethlehem's Lackawanna plant.

The conference was arranged by Conciliator Thomas M. Finn, who went to Buffalo from Washington after a leader of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee charged the company refused to negotiate as provided in a Government-drafted agreement which ended a two-day strike February 28.

Nathan E. Cowan, S. W. O. C. sub-regional director, who asserted earlier this week that another walkout is "imminent," said an attempt would be made to "bring about an amicable adjustment of our grievances."

Henry J. Winters, regional director of the National Labor Relations Board, announced a hearing on the S. W. O. C.'s petition for a collective bargaining election would be held March 20.

Other Disputes Tie Up Plants. Strikes continued to spot industrial New Jersey despite settlement of the Edison controversy. Three thousand workers remained out at the Aluminum Co. of America at Edgewater; so did 1,500 at the General Instruments Corp. plant at Elizabeth and 2,000 at the Cornell Dubilier plant in South Plainfield.

A federal conciliator expressed hope for a "solution" of the aluminum strike, which hangs on a union claim that the company violated overtime provisions of a 1939 contract. The plant makes aluminum products essential for airplane manufacture.

At the Cornell Dubilier plant, which makes radio condensers, A. F. L. strikers sought wage increases. The General Instruments dispute was over demands of the A. F. L. electrical workers.

Ingalls Strikes Averted. Signing of a new contract with A. F. L. structural steel workers last night ended the threat of a strike at two Birmingham, Ala., plants of the Ingalls Iron Works Co., now fabricating plates for 100,000,000 worth of defense shipbuilding. The new agreement gave wage increases to the firm's 650 Birmingham employees. However, a shipbuilding subsidiary at Pascagoula, Miss., remained hampered by a strike of 150 A. F. L. riggers and erectors.

Other developments saw the settlement of a dispute at a tulou plant being built at Baytown, Tex., and the beginning of a strike of 100 carpenters at a Navy defense project at Key West, Fla.

Spokesmen for the 143 building craftsmen at Baytown indicated the dispute involved wages, but details of the settlement were not made public. The Key West carpenters asked higher pay also. An A. F. L. official declared the men acted as individuals in leaving the job.

Strike Vote Authorized. At Oakland, Calif., last night C. I. O. union auto workers authorized a strike vote Saturday against General Motors plants in Eastbay.

Frank Slaby, C. I. O. local official, said the vote would be taken unless an agreement was reached with the management of the Fisher body factory by that time.

"The strike-vote proposal had the unanimous support of 1,500 workers," declared Slaby, "meeting as representatives of the Fisher body, Chevrolet passenger auto, General Motors trucks and General Motors parts departments. The strike, if called, will be against all General Motors plants."

Service Workers Strike At Lansburgh & Bro. Thirty-five porters, maids and male elevator operators employed by Lansburgh & Bro. department store walked out today, according to union officers, because they were unable to obtain a new contract. Austin S. Donaldson, store manager, said he was conferring with union representatives.

James Kimbro, colored, president of Building Service Employees, an A. F. of L. affiliate, said the union had conferred with the store management for the last three months.



Salonika, Greece—War Terrifies the Innocent—This mother and child were terror-stricken during a recent Italian bombing raid on Salonika. Photo taken by Greek and British censors. —Movietone News Photo from Wide World.

Contract Chief Sees Arms Outlay Reaching 30 Billions by Fall

Aluminum Utensil Firms Told They'll Be Denied Metal When Stocks End

By the Associated Press.

CLEVELAND, March 14.—The chief of the Government's contract service declared yesterday present military expenditures of 12½ billion dollars would accelerate to a total of 30 billions in the next nine and a half months.

The official, Robert L. Mehornay, said "it is a conservative estimate that the amount of contracts for supplies—exclusive of aircraft and shipping—will be more than five times as much by the end of this year as up to date."

Addressing a closing session of a Cleveland speed-armorment conference, the former Kansas City banker-merchant broke down present contracts of 12½ billion dollars into these rough figures:

Aircraft, 2½ billions; ships, 5 billions, and "everything else"—including such things as ammunition orders, new plants, plant expansion and clothing, 5½ billions.

Stating there was little expectation of any substantial increase in orders for aircraft and fighting ships, he declared another 17½ billion dollars would be spent on supplies and the like before the end of 1941.

Mr. Mehornay also disclosed that to date, approximately one and a half billions had been spent for 302 new plants and another 400 millions for expansion of existing plants.

Another speaker warned industry will feel "the real pinch" of a labor shortage by late August or early September.

"Before our present preparation the Army bought some 500 machine guns per year of 50 caliber. Before this year is out they will be buying 5,000 per month," Mr. Mehornay added.

"All-out" participation of industry in defense will forestall the danger of "too great concentration of production in certain areas," and relieve processors already loaded to full capacity for months ahead, he said.

Before his address, Mr. Mehornay told newsmen that 60 members of the Aluminum Utensils Manufacturers' Association had been advised they would not be able to get any aluminum after they use supplies now on hand, and were "out of business."

About 21,000 workers in the aluminum kitchen utensil field will be made idle or forced into defense work by the restriction, he estimated. He expressed belief airplane manufacturers would subcontract with the pot-and-pans makers.

Aluminum is needed principally for aircraft production. The ban on its use for making pots and pans is the first "total" restriction since the defense program started, Mr. Mehornay said. The utensil industry has taken 10 per cent of normal aluminum production.

Four Japanese Planes Felled, Chinese Claim By the Associated Press.

CHUNGKING, March 14.—Four Japanese warplanes were shot down today, Chinese reported, when a wedge of 12 machines flew over Szechwan Province in an apparent reconnaissance to locate the Chinese air force.

Near Chengtu, the Chinese said, the Japanese found the Chinese planes—in the air. Chinese losses were not mentioned.

Yugoslavs Struggle For Way to Appease Nazis Outside Pact

Conclusions Reached by Regent and Premier Still Undisclosed

By the Associated Press.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 14.—Like men lost in a maze, leaders of this World War-born kingdom conferred for hours yesterday in an effort to find a way to appease Germany without lashing their nation to the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo axis.

Chief Regent Prince Paul and Premier Dragisa Cvetkovich locked themselves in conferences in Delije Palace's study, but what conclusions they reached were not disclosed.

Earlier Cvetkovich conferred with Dr. Vladimir Machek, leader of the Croat, and lesser politicians.

Only along the short Greek frontier could Yugoslavia still count on non-axis friendship, and access to that 100-odd mile gateway is the principal objective of German pressure.

Greece, which has declared she will continue her fight against the axis regardless of Yugoslavia's decision, busily fortified Thrace against attack of a German army on her Bulgarian frontier and continued to move civilians out of the line of march.

Turkey still watched the situation calmly, but with warlike preparations. Officially inspired newspapers counseled the public to be calm and assured the nation that defenses were "adequate" for any contingency.

In German quarters in Belgrade there were reports that Berlin was growing impatient for Yugoslavia's decision and might demand a quick reply to the "invitation to join the axis."

Yugoslavs still carry over from World War days a hatred of the Germans and, conversely, affection for Britain and France, who helped at Versailles to amalgamate with the Serbs the numerous minor and antagonistic races which form this largest Balkan nation.

Leaders of the nation's army of a million still talk some of the possibility of military resistance, but political leaders in answer point to the map showing five axis countries ringing Yugoslavia.

"Fight or die" advocates insist, however, that the army might carry on guerrilla warfare from the Serbian mountains, where blitzkrieg tactics would be of little value.

These arguments seemed to have changed the situation little from Wednesday's report that Yugoslavia had agreed "in principle" to the German demands.

Prince Paul apparently was seeking to back into the axis camp without so offending pro-British and Greek sentiment that his regime would fall, thus inviting a firmer German grip on the nation.

Whether Berlin would accept Belgrade's offer to sign first a bilateral declaration of friendship seemed entirely up to Hitler. Yugoslavs themselves recognized, however, that such a compromise with a little nation might be too great a blow to the diplomatic prestige of a nation which already dominates the continent.

Benedict College Services Dr. Gordon B. Hancock of Virginia Union University will be guest speaker at services commemorating the 70th anniversary of Benedict College, S. C., under the auspices of the Washington alumni Sunday at 8:30 p.m. at the Florida Avenue Baptist Church.

Mrs. Fletcher Plans To Carry Railroad Fight to Courts

Commission Turns Down Move to Force W. & O. D. To Continue Service

By the Associated Press.

With a decision of the Virginia State Corporation Commission against her, Mrs. Nellie O. Fletcher of 1851 Columbia road N.W., said today she would carry her fight to the courts to require the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad to continue passenger service after midnight April 12.

The commission announced yesterday at Richmond its decision to deny a motion of Mrs. Fletcher to reverse a previous order permitting the company to abandon passenger carrying services.

"I will carry this fight to the highest courts in the land," said Mrs. Fletcher, who addressed herself to the commission as "The Voice of the People."

Previously, Mrs. Fletcher had requested Gov. Price to intercede when the commission granted her an opportunity to present her motion Monday.

She has battled for months to retain passenger service from the Rosslyn (Va.) terminus to Purcellville, Va.

Only Two Appear. She and her husband, W. A. Fletcher, were the only persons, however, to appear to protest discontinuance, which the company contended was justified on the basis of revenues. Petitions for intervention had been filed in behalf of the towns of Leesburg, Herndon, Falls Church and Purcellville, but they sent no spokesmen.

The railroad originally was authorized to discontinue service last August 18, but later orders directed the line to retain part of its passenger trains for 60-day periods.

Capital Gives \$4,500 To Hebrew Aid Society Washingtonians have subscribed \$4,500 so far for the work of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society of America, it was announced today by Joseph A. Wilner, chairman of the campaign here. The goal is \$15,000.

The fund is being used to aid refugees who are stranded in unoccupied France and in Lisbon, Portugal. Dr. Rudolph Kornblith, director of the drive, said his organization recently received permission from the State Department for Americans to send packages of food to relatives in Germany, Austria and Poland.

'Nazi' Chutist' Arrested By Guards in Ireland By the Associated Press.

DUBLIN, March 14.—Guards at Taghmon County Wexford yesterday arrested a stranger who stated that he had landed by parachute during the night from a German plane at a town called Ballycullane in the same county. It was officially announced last night.

There was no report of any forced landing by any plane in the district where he descended.

'Clucking' Owl Adopted as Pet By Gen. Marshall's Chauffeur



This little screech owl has become the pet, at least temporarily, of Gen. George C. Marshall's chauffeur.

—Harris & Ewing Photo.

A small owl who named himself Cluck-Cluck-Cluck, or just plain Cluck for short, joined the Army late yesterday, shortly after Gen. George C. Marshall's chauffeur spied him perching in a holly tree on Capitol Hill.

Sergeant James W. Powder heard the bird "clucking" to himself as he sat behind the wheel waiting for Gen. Marshall to leave a committee House hearing.

The Army man strolled over to the owl, which perched unafraid on his glove. He decided to take him to his home at 1123 Oates street N.E. for a pet, a decision which the general laughingly indorsed when he came out shortly later.

Sergeant Powder telephoned the Zoo to ask what to feed the owl. He explained he already had built a cage for his pet. A Zoo expert advised Sergeant Powder to feed Cluck on hamburger. He also suggested he keep the owl at some distance from his sleeping quarters.

"But Cluck's only a baby," the sergeant said.

"All the same, he may turn out to be a full-grown screech owl... just bring him out to the Zoo when he starts screeching instead of clucking."

Conscientious Objectors' Camp Nearly Ready

By the Associated Press.

RICHMOND, Va., March 14.—The first Virginia camp for conscientious objectors under the Selective Service Act will be opened about March 24 near Grottoes, in Rockingham County, and others may be opened later near Daleville, in Botetourt County, and near Front Royal.

Soil conservation work will be the principal activity at the Grottoes camp, which will ultimately have an enrollment of about 150 men and will be in charge of John Mosemann of Lancaster, Pa., a Mennonite missionary who spent six years in Africa.

Plans for the camps were discussed here yesterday at a conference attended by State Selective Service officials, representatives of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors and members of the local committee for advising conscientious objectors.

The Selective Service Act contains a provision that registrants conscientiously opposed even to service in non-combatant units of the Army may be assigned to other work of national importance under civilian direction.

In his 93d year, James Carpenter of Cox's Green, England, celebrated by riding his bicycle, a skill he acquired at the age of 78.

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